

United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE Washington, D.C. 20240

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Swan Hunting in the Pacific Flyway

The purpose of this proposed action is to reconcile conflicting strategies for managing two swan species in the Pacific Flyway, namely: (1) to enhance the winter range distribution of the less abundant Rocky Mountain Population (RMP) of Trumpeter swans (*Cygnus buccinator*) by severely restricting or eliminating Tundra swan (*C. columbianus*) hunting, or both, in portions of the Pacific Flyway currently open to Tundra swan hunting, and (2) to optimize hunting of the more numerous and widely distributed Western Population (WP) of Tundra swans in the Pacific Flyway by not further restricting hunting seasons to benefit the range distribution of Trumpeter swans.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes a balance between these two competing strategies and various recommendations from the Pacific Flyway Council, the States of Montana, Utah, and Nevada, The Trumpeter Swan Society, and others by continuing on a operational basis a general swan season in portions of Montana and Nevada. Additionally, the Service proposes a new three-year experiment in Utah, based on further reductions in the swan season that would allow the taking of any species of swan (*Cygnus* sp.) subject to: (1) a limited, but biologically acceptable, quota on the take of Trumpeter swans, and (2) modification of the already limited take and restricted seasons on Tundra swans to enhance the likelihood that Trumpeter swans would be successful in expanding their winter range, and (3) a program to monitor the effectiveness of this action. The Service will continue with its participation in the State-Federal effort to enhance the winter-range distribution of Trumpeter swans.

Based on review and evaluation of the information contained in the supporting reference below, I have determined that the proposed action to amend 50 CFR part 20, subpart K, to allow the hunting of certain migratory birds during subsequent seasons will provide adequate protection to the affected swan species and that this is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, the preparation of an environmental impact statement on the proposed action is not required.

Supporting Reference

Environmental Assessment: Proposal to Establish General Swan Hunting Seasons in Pacific Flyway.

Date

DIRECTOR